

## **SPEAKER'S BIO**

### **BRENDA LOCKE**

Brenda Locke is a retired public defender who spent nearly 15 years in Jackson County representing minors charged with delinquent acts in youth court and adults charged with felony crimes in circuit court. She is currently employed as Juvenile Resource Attorney in the Mississippi Office of State Public Defender. Brenda serves on the Advisory Committee of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and on the Advisory Committee for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Task Force. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Paralegal Studies from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi, School of Law. Brenda is a longtime member of MPDA and previously served on the board of directors. Brenda is also a Certified JTIP Trainer.

### **GAR BLUME**

Gar Blume received his B.S. (1974) and J.D. (1978) degrees from the University of Alabama. While in law school, he served as Research Editor of *The Law and Psychology Review*. He practices with his wife, Nettie Cohen Blume. Gar's practice primarily focuses on trials and appeals of juvenile court matters, criminal defense, and Social Security Disability matters.

Gar was presented with the Special Merit Award by the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association in 2012 for "Outstanding Representation and Performance in a Criminal Case." The case involved two charges of Sodomy 1<sup>o</sup> against a 15 year old. It originated in juvenile court and was transferred to adult court. After over 6 years, the client was granted youthful offender status and was found not guilty. He received the Special Merit Award from ACDLA in 2014 for the fastest "not guilty" verdict in Tuscaloosa County history: 6 minutes in a drug case where the drugs were found between the defendant's feet.

Gar is a member of the Advisory Board of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center. He chairs the Alabama State Bar Task Force on Juvenile Law, Child and Adolescent Rights. For 10 years, Gar has chaired the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association's Juvenile Bar Committee, which presents quarterly CLE programs focusing on juvenile court practice. For several years that has been the only source of juvenile law CLE in the State.

### **HECTOR LINEARS**

Professor Linares has been teaching and supervising student attorneys in the LSU Law Center's Juvenile Defense Clinic since Fall of 2009. Professor Linares received his B.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies in 2000 from Tulane

University and his J.D. in 2003 from New York University School of Law, where he was an editor on the Review of Law and Social Change. Before joining the faculty at LSU, Professor Linares was a staff attorney at Juvenile Regional Services, the juvenile public defender's office for Orleans Parish. He also practiced disability rights law as a supervising attorney at Protection & Advocacy, Inc. in Los Angeles, California. He began his career as the Southern Poverty Law Center Special Education Fellow at the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, where his advocacy on behalf of disabled students was nationally recognized through the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) Award for Distinguished Advocacy for the Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities. Professor Linares is also a member of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana State Law Institute's Children's Code Committee, and the Southern Juvenile Defender Center Advisory Committee.

### **WHITNEY UNTIEDT**

Whitney Untiedt recently joined Akerman LLP as a partner and the firm's first Director of Pro Bono Initiatives. Based in the firm's Miami office, Whitney oversees all firm-wide pro bono activities and is spearheading the development of the firm's centralized pro bono initiative, which focuses on justice for children.

Prior to joining Akerman, Whitney completed a year of service as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, followed by nine years as an Assistant Public Defender, where she represented juvenile and adult clients in criminal matters ranging from domestic battery and drug possession to arson and gun crimes. As Division Chief of Alachua County Court for four years, Whitney supervised and trained attorneys and law student interns while maintaining a focused juvenile delinquency caseload. Whitney has served as the Chair of the Florida Juvenile Court Rules Committee, and has taught Juvenile Justice at the University of Florida College of Law and Negotiation at UF's Warrington College of Business Administration. In addition to traveling nationwide as a National Institute for Trial Advocacy faculty member and a certified trainer for the National Juvenile Defender Center, she is Co-Director of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and is appointed to the Florida Children's Justice Act Task Force. Whitney is the author of a chapter in *Florida Juvenile Law and Practice*, published by the Florida Bar, and was recently appointed to the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism. Whitney graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law with honors, where she was President of the Trial Team and of the Association for Public Interest Law.